

REMARKS

In light of the above Amendments and following Remarks, reconsideration and allowance of this Application are respectfully requested.

In Paragraph 2 of the outstanding Office Action, the Examiner has rejected Claim 2 under 35 U.S. C. § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention. The Examiner has indicated that it is not clear how a value can be recorded in a specific picture element component. Applicant has amended Claim 2 to recite that the value is associated with a specific picture element component, and therefore requests that the rejection of Claim 2 under U.S.C. § 112 be withdrawn.

In Paragraph 4 of the outstanding Office Action the Examiner has rejected Claims 1-7 under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by MacInnis et al. (USPN 6,573,905). Applicant respectfully traverses the rejection.

MacInnis et al. has an actual U.S. filing date of August 18, 2000, is a continuation-in-part of an application filed November 9, 1999, and also claims the benefit of a provisional application filed December 14, 1999. Applicant notes that the present application claims priority to Japanese Patent Application 2000-094283 filed March 30, 2000 thereby predating the actual filing date of the MacInnis et al. reference. While MacInnis et al. claims continuation-in-part status to the application filed November 9, 1999, applicant submits that Examiner has made no indication that the portions of the reference relied upon to reject the claims in the pending application were present in the parent application filed on November 9, 1995. Similarly, the examiner has made no such showing regarding the provisional application filed December 14, 1999. The Examiner has provided neither of these documents for review by the Applicant. Applicant therefore

submits that U.S. Patent No. 6,573,905 issued to MacInnis et al. is not prior art to the present application, and that, in the absence of a showing by the Examiner, the portions of MacInnis relied upon by the Examiner to reject the claims of the pending application are entitled to priority of neither the application filed on November 9, 1999, nor the provisional application filed on December 14, 1999.

Because MacInnis et al. is therefore not prior art to the present application, Applicant respectfully requests that the rejection of Claims 1-7 under 35 U.S.C. § 102 be withdrawn.

In conclusion, Applicants have made a diligent effort to place Claims 1-7 as condition for allowance, and notice that this effect is honestly solicited. If the Examiner is unable to issue a notice of allowance regarding these Claims, the Examiner is requested to contact the undersigned attorney in order to discuss any further outstanding issues.

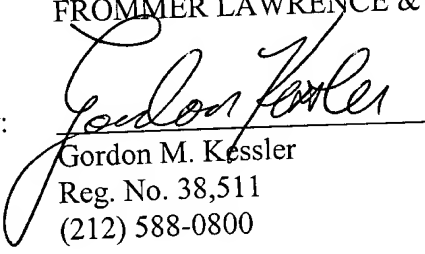
Early and favorable consideration are respectfully requested.

Please charge any fees incurred by reason of this response and not paid herewith to
Deposit Account No. 50-0320.

Respectfully submitted,

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